

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Original) A short-circuiting device for an electric railway system having a conductor rail for supplying electric power to drive railway vehicles, the function of the device being to provide a short circuit between a track rail and the conductor rail, the short circuiting device comprising:

a first contact element having a face contactable with the track rail;

a contact arm that has a contact face contactable with the conductor rail; and

hinged connecting means for coupling the contact arm with the contact element, the hinged connecting means including a multi-hinged connection having two levers which are joined to each other via a knee-type joint and joined respectively via first and second hinged connecting joints to the contact element and the contact arm, one of the levers is formed as a closing lever, the levers and the hinged connection joints being shaped and arranged so that by executing a rotational movement with the closing lever the knee-type joint moves about an axis of the first hinged connection joint which is assigned to the closing lever and the contact element and the contact arm are brought together to make electrical contact.

2. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 1, wherein the multi-hinged connection includes the closing lever which is coupled to the contact element by the first hinged connecting joint, and a connecting lever which is coupled to the contact arm by the second hinged connecting joint which is on the contact element, both the levers being coupled together via the knee-type joint.

3. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 1, wherein the multi-hinged connection means includes the closing lever coupled to the contact arm by one of the connection joints and a connecting lever coupled to the contact element

by a further of the connection joints, both levers being coupled together via the knee-type joint.

4. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 1, wherein the contact element forms a first clamping jaw and the contact arm forms a second clamping jaw, the short circuiting device being attachable to the track rail by the first and second clamping jaws, the multi-hinged connection means being configured so that on making electrical contact between the contact element and the contact arm, the short circuiting device is clamped securely onto the track rail by reducing a distance between the first and second clamping jaws.

5. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 1, wherein the multi-hinged connection means is configured to function according to a principle of a bracket closure or cliplock and, in order to make electrical contact between the contact element and the contact arm, the knee-type joint is movable with its axis through a rotational movement of the closing lever about the first connection joint into a self-inhibiting end position which hinders the electrical contact from opening by itself.

6. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 1, wherein the closing lever and the connecting lever are coupled together via the knee-type joint so that, in order to establish contact, the closing lever is movable until it reaches a dead-point by exercising a rotational movement about the axis of the related first connection joint and, by continuing the rotational movement, the closing lever is movable into a self-inhibiting closed position on exceeding the dead point position.

7. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 6, wherein the closed position is defined by an end stop on the contact arm on which the closing lever can be brought to rest on exceeding the dead-point.

8. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 4, wherein the contact element is electrically conductive and, in a position in which the contact element makes contact with the contact arm, electrical contact is made via the first clamping jaw from the track rail to the contact arm, and the second clamping jaw of the contact arm is insulated and no electrical contact can be made between the track rail and the contact arm.

9. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 4, wherein the second clamping jaw is a component mounted on an end part of the contact arm at an angle.

10. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 9, wherein the second clamping jaw is mounted at a right angle so as to face the first clamping jaw.

11. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 1, wherein the contact arm contains an electrically conductive power transfer element made of a metal profiled section.

12. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 11, wherein the power transfer element is a hollow metal profiled section.

13. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 11, wherein the power transfer element is an extruded aluminium section.

14. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 11, wherein the contact arm includes an electrically insulated contact arm housing, in which the power transfer element is situated, and the contact element includes a sliding arm which is slideably mounted at least partially in the contact arm housing for making electrical contact with the power transfer element.

15. (Original) A short circuiting device according to claim 1, wherein the multi-hinged connection is formed as a bracket and, on both sides of the short circuiting device closing levers are provided which are connected via a connecting element to a bracket which is formed as a handgrip.